

TRINITY CHARGE--THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Ralph C. Link, Pastor  
Christ Church, Duncannon 9:00 A.M.  
Trinity Church, New Bloomfield 10:30 A.M.

THE ORDER OF WORSHIP September 16, 1973

The Organ Prelude

\*The Hymn of Praise

19

\*The Call to Worship

\*The Prayer of Confession (Unison)

Father, we confess, in your presence,  
the sinfulness of our nature, and our short-  
comings and offenses against you. You alone  
know how often we have sinned, in wandering  
from your ways, in wasting your gifts, in  
forgetting your love. Have mercy and for-  
give us, Father, for we are truly ashamed  
and sorry for all we have done to displease  
you; through Jesus the Christ. Amen.

\*The Kyrie

\*The Assurance of Pardon

The Scripture --- Job 5:8-27

\*The Gloria Patri

The Pastoral Prayer

The Announcements

The Receiving of Tithes and Offerings

\*The Doxology

\*The Offering Prayer and the Lord's Prayer

The Hymn of Meditation

282

The Sermon --- "The Continual Quest!"

The Sermon Prayer

\*The Hymn of Response

462

\*The Benediction

\*The Threefold Amen

\*The Postlude

\*Congregation Stands

TRINITY CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

Sept. 30<sup>th</sup> will be the last Sunday to bring  
eye glasses and lens, commemorative stamps  
and trading stamps. The boxes for these  
articles are in the back of the church.

Call to Worship: O give thanks unto the Lord, for  
He is good: For His mercy endureth forever.

Call to Confession: The young man in the New Testamen  
came home and went to his father and said, "Father,  
I've sinned against heaven and before you and am  
no more worthy to be called your son," He sought  
forgiveness and found it. Let us seek forgiveness  
of our Father.

Lord, have mercy upon us.

Lord, have mercy upon us.

Christ, have mercy upon us.

Christ, have mercy upon us.

Lord, have mercy upon us.

Lord, have mercy upon us.

Assurance of Pardon: If we confess our sins, He is  
faithful and just, and will forgive our sins and  
cleanse us from all unrighteousness. There is  
therefore, no condemnation for those who are in  
Christ Jesus, who walk not according to the flesh,  
but according to the spirit. Amen.

A CRUSADE FOR CHRIST, DUNCANNON  
CHRIST UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

SUNDAY, MAY 20, 1973

"Revive Thy work O Lord! And make Thy servants bold;  
Convict of sin, and work once more as in the days of old.

Revive Thy work, O Lord, come now and answer prayer;  
O come in Holy Spirit power, and save men everywhere."

Oswald J. Smith

The P.T.P. Singers

Announcements

Offering

Solo - Carol Rissinger

Hymns 152, 77

The Evening Message: Dr. Warren Sickman

Hymn 233

Benediction

We thank everyone who helped to make this service possible. We thank God for any and all who may have been helped and we pray that the love of Christ may endure in each and every heart. Please plan to attend the remaining services and bring your friends and neighbors.



"The Continual Quest!"

OBEDIENCE TO GOD  
(JONAH)

Text: Job 5:8,9, "As for me I would seek God, and to God would I commit my cause; who does great things and unsearchable, marvelous things without number."

Sandwiched between the book of Obadiah, and Micah in the Old Testament is a lovely little book about a man called Jonah. All that we really know about Jonah is that he was the son of Amittai. God spoke to Jonah and said, "Arise, go to Ninevah, that great city, and cry against it; for their wickedness has come up before me." But since Jonah was a very independent person, he decided to run away from God, and he decided to go to Tarshish which was in the opposite direction of Ninevah.

He went to Joppa, paid his fare to go to Tarshish on a ship leaving for that port and departed. But God sent a storm upon the sea, and it was so great the sailors believed the ship was about to be flooded and they would all perish. First, they threw the cargo overboard to lighten the load., but still the ship tossed to and fro like a cork bobbing in a pan of water. The sailors then prayed to the gods they believed in, but even this did not help.

Now while all of this was happening, Jonah had gone into the inner part of the ship and had laid down, and fallen asleep. The captain came and found him sleeping and took him to task for being ~~now~~ so uncaring and unfeeling at a time like this. The captain told him to pray to his gods, or god, and perhaps his prayers would be answered and they all would be saved.

The sailors were very superstitious men and they cast lots to determine who had brought this evil upon them. It just so happened that the lot fell to Jonah and so they questioned him as to why he was aboard that vessel, where he came from and so forth. Jonah explained that he was a Hebrew and believed in God, and that in fact he was running away from his God. This made the sailors more fearful and they asked him what they should do to him to calm the sea, and please his god. All the while

the sea became more and more tempestuous. Jonah told them to throw him into the sea because it was due to his disobedience to God that the storm had come up.

They continued to row to reach shore, but were unable to make any progress due to the severity of the storm. So they prayed to God to deliver them from the storm and to deliver them from the blood of Jonah, and then they tossed him overboard. Immediately the sea became calm. The sailors offered a sacrifice to God and made promises to Him. <sup>God caused to</sup> Meanwhile, a large fish ~~had~~ come along, ~~also at the~~ and this fish swallowed Jonah. And Jonah was inside this fish for three days and three nights.

During the time that Jonah was inside the fish, he prayed to God. Because of Jonah's prayers and his promise to fulfill the task God had given him, God caused the fish to vomit Jonah on the shore.

God spoke to Jonah a second time and told him to go to Ninevah. This time Jonah heard what God had to say, and he journeyed to Ninevah. The city was so large it took him 3 days to cross it. Jonah made a day's journey into the city, and it was here he began to preach. He told them that in 40 days, the city was to be destroyed. His preaching was so effective that the people of Ninevah repented from their sins and proclaimed a fast. They put on sackcloth and sat in ashes. From the very greatest to the very least of the people, they repented. Even the king was moved by Jonah's words, and he too put on sackcloth and sat in the ashes. He sent out a decree that all men and all animals, were not to eat or drink anything. In this way they hoped that God would renounce His fierce anger and not destroy them.

When God saw that the people of Ninevah were sincere and had repented from their evil ways, He changed His mind and decided not to punish them and destroy them as He had prophesied He would do.

When Jonah found this out he became very angry with God and he fell into a rage. He prayed to God and he said, "I pray thee Lord, is not this what I said, (read ch. 4:2,3.) *AND GOD'S ANSWER*



Jonah left the city and went to the East of it and sat down. Here he made himself a shelter and sat under it to sulk and to see what would happen to the city. God arranged for a ~~water~~ castor oil plant to grow up over Jonah's head to shade him from the sun and to soothe his ill-humor. This plant caused Jonah to be delighted.

But at dawn the next day God caused a worm to attack the plant and it withered and died. God also arranged for a scorching wind to blow and the sun beat down on his head, so that he was overcome by the heat. He laid down and begged God for death.

And God answered, ch. 4:10ff.

Now here the story stops.

Regardless of how we may accept this story, the fact remains that it has more than just a little story to tell. There are those who would tell us this tale has no place in the Bible, and serves no purpose whatsoever.

But the fact remains that in the 4 short chapters of this book, is found the moral lesson of God's love and forgiveness of His people if they truly repent and turn to him. We can take this story to heart and say that we are all standing in the shoes of Jonah. How many times have we tried to evade our responsibilities as servants of God? How many times have we tried to escape from the way in which God wants us to live? And how many times have we ended up just like Jonah, caught by our own sins and found out by God?

Most people know right from wrong and they know what they should and should not do. Yet all we like sheep have gone astray. We have each fallen short of the glory of God. This is the real moral of this story. It is to show that with God there is forgiveness, even when it appears that the case is hopeless.

Eliphaz to Job  
This is what ~~Job~~ was pointing out in our Scripture for this morning. He told his ~~friends~~ that God's acts and ways are un-

Shirley & Ralph Charles Link, Nancy Link, Dale with Lianne his wife, Lloyd Link with Karen his wife  
 Jessica in front of Ralph C. Link  
 Ethan and Alisha in front of R. Dale and Lianne Link (the eldest son & family)











Ralph C. Link  
153 Keck Road  
Sarver, Pa. 16055  
(412) 352-1103

Born: April 9, 1929, Pittsburgh, Pa.  
Married: December 15, 1951  
Wife: Shirley Margaret Neill  
Born: December 8, 1930, Pittsburgh, Pa.

Children: Ralph Dale Link, born May 11, 1955, Pittsburgh, Pa.  
Lloyd Alan Link, born May 28, 1958, Pittsburgh, Pa.  
Nancy Lynn Link, born March 15, 1961, Butler, Pa.

**SCHOOLING:**

Graduated from Perry High School, Pittsburgh, Pa.  
June 1947

Lay Ministry School, Penn West Conference of United  
Church of Christ, September 1965 to May 1969

Commissioned Lay Minister June 1969

Lancaster Theological Seminary, Lancaster, Pa.,  
September 1970

Graduated from Lancaster Theological Seminary May 1974

Ordained to Christian Ministry March 10, 1974

**PASTORATES:**

As Lay Minister: short term, 1 month or less in  
various churches 1965 to 1967

Emlenton Lamartine Charge of United Church of Christ  
1967 to 1969

Short term in various churches 1970 until Seminary  
entrance July 1970

July 1970 to December 1973 Student Pastor at Trinity  
Charge, New Bloomfield, Duncannon, Pa., Penn Central  
Conference, United Church of Christ

December 1973 to present, St. Paul's United Church of  
Christ, Butler, Pa., Penn West Conference, United  
Church of Christ



## PERSONAL TESTIMONY

OF

Ralph C. Link

I am the youngest of five children. I was born just prior to the onset of the Depression. Our family was very poor. My father was an alcoholic and my mother was a very religious person who was searching for the Lord. During my childhood she did her best to teach me the things of the Lord. Later in life she came to a personal relationship with Him.

I grew up in the Evangelical and Reformed Church where salvation by grace alone was not preached nor taught. I knew all about Jesus, what He did, how He lived, His miracles, His death and resurrection, but I didn't know Him personally.

My life had many ups and downs and all the while I was attending church and striving with my good works to please God. At a very low point in my life when we were deeply in debt and my wife and three children were all ill, I came to the crossroads. I watched a Billy Graham Crusade on television from some distant city and the message he preached seemed to be directed right at me. I wrestled with making that commitment to Christ, but didn't. The next afternoon and evening at work on the 4 to 12 shift I came to the conclusion that I needed to make that commitment to Christ. It seemed like there was no other choice if life was to have any meaning. That night when I came home from work at 1:00 A.M., I laid face down on the living room floor and told God that I couldn't live my life in my own strength and I accepted the gift of salvation from my Savior Jesus Christ. My life has never been the same.

Through several meaningful circumstances I was called by God to serve Him in the Christian Ministry and to help spread that wonderful message of salvation through the shed blood of Jesus Christ. What a wonderful and rewarding time it has been and I give Him all the praise for my salvation and the opportunity to serve Him.

# STATEMENT OF FAITH

OF

Ralph C. Link

I believe the Bible, both the Old and New Testaments to be the inspired inerrant Word of God. I believe the Bible is the complete revelation of His will for the salvation of men and it is the final authority for the Christian faith and life.

I believe in one God, who is eternally existent in three persons: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

I believe in the Deity of the Lord Jesus Christ that He is true God and true man. I believe that He was born of the Virgin Mary, that He lived in sinless life, that He performed the miracles recorded in Scripture, that He died on the cross as a sacrifice for our sins, that He bodily arose from the dead, that He ascended on high where He is at the right hand of Almighty God as our intercessor.

I believe in the Holy Spirit and that He comes and indwells each believer at the time of conversion. I believe that He lives in each believer to lead, to instruct, and to convict so that a believer may live a more godly life.

I believe that through the shed blood of Jesus Christ and through His resurrection, this is the only ground for justification and salvation for all who receive Him. A Lord and Savior and to such as receive Him, they are born of the Holy Spirit and become children of God.

I believe water baptism and the Lord's Supper are ordinances of the Church but are not means of salvation.

I believe in the personal and premillennial and imminent coming of the Lord Jesus Christ.

I believe in the resurrection of the dead, for the believer to resurrection of life and joy with the Lord, for the unbeliever to resurrection of judgement and everlasting punishment.